THE EUGENE alternative press

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OUR FIRST ISSUE

Inside: Reviews of Multinational Monitor Working Papers NEW ROOTS

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Richard Parker Visits Eugene

Radical economist Richard Parker delivered a lecture titled "The Coming Dark Ages" followed by an extensive question-answer period yesterday (Jan. 20) at the University of Oregon to a crowd of 150 people. Parker was in a hurry, flying into Eugene in the morning and driving to Portland after the lecture. He is head of Parker, Dodd financial consultants in San Francisco, author of an article about Reagan in the next Mother Jones, and holds an Economics Doctorate from Oxford. He has also edited Ramparts and is working on a book about John Kenneth Galbraith. Here is an account of the lecture:

The addition of women in the workforce added a little bit to inflation in the 1970s, but ~~the~~ "quasi-conspiratorial" U.S. interests made alot of money and spurred inflation by taking advantage of OPEC price hikes. "Inflation does not hit ~~all~~ everyone equally - it helps the moderately wealthy accrue more wealth... While the average house in San Francisco sells for over $100,000, the lawyer making $60,000/yr. is cushioned from such inflation." Further more, while mortgage interest rates are 15%, someone in a 50% tax bracket can have the government pay ½ of the interest (7½%) while those in a 10% bracket can only write off 1½%. Such tax mechanisms will only worsen, and I see high inflation under the Reagan tax plan."

The upper class is growing - there are now over 600,000 millionaires in the U.S. compared to only 100,000 ten years ago - but the middle class is disappearing mostly becomming the lower class. In this "New Feudalism" middle class people will become either "techno-peasants" or part of the "techno-priesthood." There will be a continuing reduction of government power, making the power less centralized than governments of recent centuries, now with corporations on top. "Adam Smith's invisible hand has been accepted as God's most recent expression." Reagan's presidency will mean a fall in living standards, with a faster rate of fall outside the U.S. "I use the words conscious and unconscious timorously in describing Reagan..... Eva Peron is a very conscious Reagan."

Despite propaganda, the U.S. has a productive work force. The Wall Street Journal reports we are more productive than Canada and Japan, with the Japanese workers 2½ times less productive than we are. (Editor's note: it is interesting to note at this point that the chairman of the company that owns Datsun has a much lower salary than the chairman of General Motors). On feminism: Government has been hiring women faster than corporations, which is not saying much. Women ~~etc~~ will emerge in a class position rather than sexual identity. To fight economic oppression they will begin living in groups and perhaps organize strikes. On anti-nuke: the movement will not disappear. Journalism: I read Mult. Monitor, Wall Street Journal, Statistical Abstract of the U.S. and two journals in French. On Milton Friedman His failures are causing replacement of Thatcher with the Labor Party in Britain. On social change: We should stop talking about nationalization and key in on influencing pension funds where the bulk of domestic money is. Price controls will not work - capital would be withheld from reinvestment in the economy by angry capitalists.

Human Rights Conference

"Human Rights in Latin America" will be the subject of a public symposium at the University of Oregon in mid-February. The conference will be attended by rights leaders from Latin America. Contact the EMU Cultural Forum for details.

CIA Role Defined

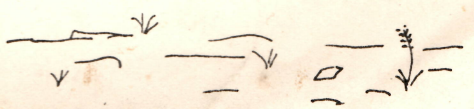
CIA Director-designate William Casey testified in Congress last week saying the use of covert intervention in foreign countries is O.K. "when it's in the highest interests of the United States." He also said it is basically alright to hire journalists and priests (and presumably embassy officials) as CIA agents: "I start out with the feeling that no American should be deprived of serving his country in any way he can without exception." Casey was nominated by Reagan, and has worked under Nixon as chairman of the SEC and the Export-Import Bank. Casey has worked in "intelligence" since World War II.

Minority Elects REAGAN

Less than half of the nation's voters made it to the polls last Nov. when Reagan beat Carter. This was the lowest voter turnout since Truman defeated Dewey almost four decades ago.

SOIL MEETING SET

Willamette Valley organic farmers and soil scientists from O.S.U. will give free day-long presentations on building soil fertility on January 31 in Corvallis. Transportation from Eugene is $4 rndtp. Contact Bob Cooperrider of Tilth 843-3492



access

Working Papers for a New Society $3/issue bimonthly. 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA 02139. Student/low-income subscriptions available.

Working Papers is a national policy oriented magazine. It is a watered-down renaissance of Ramparts - the deceased radical journal of the sixties/seventies - but is much better than the highly commercialized clones of Ramparts such as New Times and Mother Jones (in fact the latter two magazines have a Time format while Working Papers and Ramparts have been called the Fortune magazine of America's Left). Working Papers purports to be open to new ideas, and is thus not particularly Marxist, but the current emphasis is on labor unions with rare coverage of ecology ~~and~~ or international human rights. Perspectives are truly left-wing, and recently Working Papers sponsored a debate about "re-industrialization" at Harvard University. The magazine is written with the establishment media in mind, and provides more balanced journalism than Fortune, Forbes, etc. Backissues are available at the Univ. of Oregon library.

New Roots for the Northeast $1.50/issue, subscriptions (1 year/8issues) $10. Box 548 Greenfield, MA. 01302.

Although it is supposed to be a regional of New England, New Roots is becomming popular across the country. The magazine has been described as a hybrid of Mother Earth News and the late New Times, but New Roots coverage of technology, grass roots politics and agriculture ~~is~~ is more accurate than New Times. In addition, New Roots is less ego-minded than M.E. News, and provides more continuity between major ideas than both of the other magazines. The January 1981 issue includes: an excellent review of nine vegetarian cook books (including Laurel's Kitchen and Diet for Small Planet); review of Karen Silkwood play; "Composting in the Snow" (not suitable in this area); in-depth instructions on how to attach a water heater to a woodstove; "The Inside Story of Organic Greenhouse Gardening" by Susan Yanda (a pioneer in the field); a report on Women and A.T.; a story on Samuel Kayman (leading organic gardner in New England); and a free classified ad section for subscribers. A well-rounded magazine.

MULTINATIONAL MONITOR $1/issue $15/yr. Box 19312 Wash., D.C. 20036

This year-old monthly is loosely affiliated with Ralph Nader and John Kenneth Galbraith, two notable left-wingers, and provides valuable information sent in from a network of good people around the world - certainly an alternative to Time's network. Each issue contains an interview with influential people on the world business scene, James Ridgeway's "The Elements," and feature stories like "Westinghouse backs King Hassan's desert war" and "Discreet subsidy: Exim's nuclear loans" (both Nov. 1980); the kind of coverage you'll miss in Business week. Environmentalist efforts are not ignored and information is ~~com~~ occasionally credited to Friends of the Earth. No. 7 (August 1980) was a "special Pharmaceutical Issue," and the cover story on No. 4 (May) was "Brazil '80." Included in last November's issue was an interview with Peter Johnson, executive-director of CCAA (a U.S. investment group in the Caribbean) with this inset of Edward Seaga. Michael Manley was interviewed in an earlier Monitor.

Photo: Bob Greenberg

Newly-elected Jamaican Prime Minister EDWARD SEAGA offering the keynote address at CCAA's November conference on "Caribbean Trade, Investment and Development," held in Miami. Seaga referred to his victory over Michael Manley, claiming the election "laid to rest the body of democratic socialism in Jamaica as the deceased client of the Cuban state, as a proxy of Marxist ambitions and intentions in the area." The audience, composed overwhelmingly of U.S. corporate executives, responded with a strong burst of applause.

-MULTINAL MONITOR

AHEAD

Watch for our upcoming review of John Lennon's 1975 book and 1980 interview, and other good stories. This is a young, fastgrowing and evolving publication; all ideas and support are welcome. Copies of this issue are available from Carlos, Box 3476, Eugene 97403. We want to revive alternative journalism in this area with your help, or we'd like to help you do it.